

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



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Department of
Agriculture

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Tuesday, October 14, 2003

HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 2003
IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED
- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY -

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

- | | |
|------------|--|
| ARKANSAS | - Soybean, extra light amber, \$1.25 (small lot) |
| CALIFORNIA | - Buckwheat/Cotton/Orange, light & extra light amber, \$1.20-1.25
- Cotton/Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.35 (delayed payment)
- Cotton/Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.20
- Floral Not Reported, white, \$1.50
- Melter, dark amber, 85¢
- Mixed Flowers, extra light & light amber, \$1.10-1.20 (small lots)
- Orange Blossom, white, \$1.55
- Sage, white, \$1.50 |
| FLORIDA | - Gallberry, extra light amber, \$1.35-1.40 --- cut comb, \$1.50
- Floral Not Reported, white, \$1.50
- Orange Blossom, white & extra light amber, \$1.50*
- Saw Palmetto, extra light amber, \$1.40
- Wildflowers, light amber, \$1.40
*some previous commitments/small lots |
| GEORGIA | - Floral Not Reported, light amber, \$1.35 |
| IDAHO | - Alfalfa, white, \$1.50 |
| MICHIGAN | - Floral Not Reported, white, \$1.50 |
| MINNESOTA | - Floral Not Reported, white, \$1.50 |
| MONTANA | - Alfalfa, white, \$1.50
- Alfalfa/Clover, white, \$1.50
- Clover, white, \$1.54 - - - extra light amber, \$1.45
- Floral Not Reported, white, \$1.50 - - - light amber, \$1.25
- Sunflower, extra light amber, \$1.40 |

NORTH DAKOTA	- Clover, white, \$1.50
	- Clover/Alfalfa, white, \$1.50
	- Floral Not Reported, white, \$1.50
	- Floral Not Reported, extra light amber, \$1.25-1.45
	- Floral Not Reported, amber, \$1.20
OHIO	- Floral Not Reported, white, \$1.57
OREGON	- Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.43
SOUTH DAKOTA	- Alfalfa, white, \$1.54
	- Floral Not Reported, white, \$1.50
	- Floral Not Reported, extra light amber, \$1.40
UTAH	- Floral Not Reported, light amber, \$1.25
WASHINGTON	- Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.35
	- Blackberry, white, \$1.50
	- Clover, light amber, \$1.30
	- Mint, dark amber, \$1.00
	- Floral Not Reported, white, \$1.50 - extra light amber, \$1.40
WISCONSIN	- Clover, white, \$1.50

Prices paid to Canadian beekeepers for unprocessed bulk honey by packers & importers in U.S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty & crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

ALBERTA	- Clover/Alfalfa, extra white, \$1.62
MANITOBA	- Clover, white, \$1.48
PROVINCE & FLORAL SOURCE NOT REPORTED	- white, \$1.50 - 1.51

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

EAST COAST.....	BRAZIL	- Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.16 - 1.18
	EGYPT	- Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, \$1.18
	INDIA	- Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.20
	TURKEY	- Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, \$1.28
	VIETNAM	- Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.06
WEST COAST.....	BRAZIL	- Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, \$1.32
	CHINA	- Mixed Flowers, white, \$1.08 - - extra light amber, \$1.04

COLONY, HONEY PLANT & MARKET CONDITIONS DURING SEPTEMBER

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT – (MD, PA, VA, WV) YYY

The weather pattern in September proved no different than the spring and summer, which was plenty of rainfall and cooler than normal temperatures. Bees lightly foraged on the prolific bloom of wildflowers prior to Hurricane Isabel between rain showers; however, after the storm, many nectar sources were destroyed. Goldenrod is currently blooming well; however, temperatures dropped to 10-15 degrees below normal which limited bee activity. Beekeepers are beginning to supplement feeding with sugar in order to help build honey stores for the winter. Insect and disease problems are at minimal levels. Several beekeepers experienced queen failure problems and several have had to place new queens in colonies early in the month.

CALIFORNIA YYY

Thunderstorms were recorded in many areas of the state, the first of September, but they brought more lightning strikers that caused wildfires than rain. Heat returned to the State the next week as Oakland had a daily-record high of 98 degrees on the 13th and a week later, temperatures of over 100 degrees were reported in parts of Southern California. At the same time, Northern California saw relief when cooler than normal temperatures and scattered showers were noted. The month ended with more records being broken in areas such as the Sacramento Valley which recorded 105, 105 and 107 degrees from the 22nd to the 24th.

Bees finished up cotton, melons and vegetable seed crop pollination. Some were then moved into winter locations where limited amounts of blue curl was blooming. A lot of the plants produced very little nectar because the plants dried up. Beekeepers reported the bees are not in as good as condition as previous years. There are also reports of losses from Varroa Mites when stripes were not added at the right time or some bees have become resistant to the treatments. More supplemental feed has been used in some cases because beekeepers extracted most of their crop because of high prices instead of leaving more in for food later.

Wax handlers and beekeeping supply businesses say sales of merchandise have been good the last month, mostly likely because beekeepers have sold their honey crop for higher prices and have money to buy supplies. Handlers have been getting calls from producers wanting to sell their wax but only small amounts were taken in for trade only.

Packers have been buying honey, especially small lots, but are disappointed honey sales haven't picked up as they usually do this time of year.

GEORGIA YYY

Colonies around the state were in only fair condition with most beekeepers around the state having to feed sugar and/or corn syrup and protein supplement to their colonies to a greater extent than normal for this time of year. No significant problems with disease were reported but beekeepers were treating colonies to prevent possible Varroa mite infestations during for the month. Hives are continuing to reduce populations. As of late September only goldenrod and aster were serving as pollen and nectar sources to help sustain colonies but sources have not been and are not expected to be sufficient to create a fall honey flow. Weather during September featured warm days with nights becoming cooler as the month progressed. Moisture levels around the state were just adequate as the month was drier than normal.

IDAHO YYY

The bees are generally in good condition. Most apiarists are winterizing the colonies and are feeding the hives. The main source of pollen was alfalfa. Considering how dry the year was, the honey crop appears to be near average. The weather was so warm in September some beekeepers did some of their spring work, which also helped bring in more honey.

ILLINOIS YYY

Beekeepers estimate honey yields will be down this year, not that collection are finished. Producers in some small sections in the southwestern part of the state reported yields were normal or better than normal. Fall

collection for overwintering is down due to most of the state receiving below normal rainfall. The last of the month, adequate rainfall was reported in areas which earlier had reported a lack of adequate moisture.

The demand for honey at fall festivals was reported good despite the overall quality being below previous years. Some supplemental feeding was started & many beekeepers finished with fall mite treatment.

Retail demand was reported moderate and prices have remained stable.

INDIANA YYY

Temperatures the first of the month were as high as 10 degrees above normal with very few scattered showers over the state. Hives were moved to overwintering yards & migrant bees were moved to southern states. Beekeepers took advantage of warm temperatures to fall treat their bees & begin supplemental feeding.

Beekeepers were disappointed with the short honey crop and poor quality of the honey. Most honey samples entered in county shows was very light in color.

The last of the month, seasonal cooler temperatures returned to the state. Northern sections reported daytime temperatures were 10-15 degrees below normal. Central and northern sections reported light frost and southern sections also had frost warnings.

Honey demand was reported good at the retail level. Bulk wholesale sales were reported slow due to the low level of honey in beekeepers hands.

MISSOURI & IOWA (ALSO EAST KANSAS & NEBRASKA) YYY

September temperatures were generally near normal except for the week ending on the 13th when temperature averaged about 10 degrees above normal. Some drought relief occurred during September as some weather fronts brought rain. Missouri top soil moisture improved from 10% very short, 23% short and 63% adequate the week ending September 6th to 4% very short, 14% short and 77% adequate the week ending September 30th. Subsoil moisture was not reported for Missouri and the worst counties for dry soil were in the northwest counties. Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska reported a good improvement in top soil moisture but are still showing dry sub soils. Sub soil moisture in Iowa the week ending September 6th was very short 60%, short 35%, adequate 5%; September 30th very short 44%, short 39%, adequate 17%; Kansas week ending September 6th very short 33%, short 36%, adequate 29%; September 30th very short 29%, short 31%, adequate 40%; Nebraska the week ending September 6th very short 54%, short 34%, adequate 12%; September 30th very short 44%, short 41%, adequate 15%. Except for the period of the main rainfall harvesting conditions of honey still in field locations was good.

Bee populations were still fairly high and conditions of colonies were generally good. Feeding was required in some locations. Nectar flow from Aster and Goldenrod varied depending on location of hives. Pollen collection varied from Golden Rod and Aster and other fall flowers.

Honey storage ranged from light to good with the best volume generally in Eastern Missouri. Most beekeepers in the region do not plan to extract the fall flow as they treated beehives for mites.

MONTANA YYY

The first week of September continued to be very warm across the state. Miles City had a daily-record – tying high of 97 degrees on the 6th. A cold front moved across the state the 2nd week of September, cooling temperatures considerably but bringing only limited amounts of rain. Areas that recorded heat just three weeks earlier, were now dropping to record lows. On the 14th, West Yellowstone dropped to 28 degrees and three days later, Cut Bank dropped to 23 degrees. Precipitation was still much lower than normal. Billings completed its driest June 21 – September 21 period on record with only .60". At the end of September, topsoil moisture was rated 46% very short and subsoil moisture was 59% very short.

Extraction of this year's honey crop was finished up by the end of the month. Some producers reported a fairly normal crop while others say their crop was only 70% of normal. The honey is darker than previous years probably due to the hot, dry summer. The bees are in good condition with adequate weight. Some hives were being prepared for their annual trip to California holding yards next month while others have sold most of their colonies.

NEW ENGLAND YYY

New England weather during September was mostly cool. Daytime temperatures ranged from the low 60s to the mid 70s with an occasional day in the 80s. Evening lows ranged from the mid 50s to the low 60s. Precipitation was above normal with some days of heavy precipitation from tropical storms along the east coast.

Beekeepers report a light harvest about a third of normal. This was a direct result of too much precipitation early in the season and heat wave temperatures during the later months. Some hives are going into the winter with the worst strength ever. The beekeepers are working feverously to feed and medicate these hives as much as they can before closing them up for the winter. Some report that they expect to lose up to half of their hives if the winter is bad. The good news is the demand for honey is strong and prices are rising.

NORTH CAROLINA YYY

The month of September has been drier than the previous months for the state of North Carolina. In most areas, the honey production has not done as well this year. With the wet conditions during the summer months and heavy rains received from Hurricane Isabel that hit the northern coastal areas, mosquitoes has become a major concern. The state is having to spray to keep the mosquitoes under control, which has a toxic affect on the honeybees. However, the material that is being used breaks down quickly and is used in low volume, which reduces the lethal affect to the bees. Beekeepers have two options, one to remove the hives completely from the area, or to cover them up during the spraying time. If they decide to cover them, the bees have to be monitored closely so as not to suffocate them. The overall condition of the hives is a little better than this time last year. There is a heavier supply of Golden Rod, Aster and Stickweed, which has helped the brood to be heavier than last year. This is good for the hives going into the winter. Feeding the bees is the single most important thing beekeepers need to be doing now. The mite situation is a little better than it was last year, however, beekeepers are being encouraged to continue to monitor for the mite and beetle situation.

OHIO YYY

Hives are reported to be in fair condition generally. Populations are healthy but little honey has been stored for the winter.

Most keepers will have to supplemental feed this winter. Presently bees are working Goldenrod, aster and other fall weeds.

Wholesale prices are hovering around a \$1.25 per pound.

OREGON YYY

Hot and dry conditions continued into the first few days of September but on the 7th, clouds, wind and rain came to many areas. The cooler temperatures and increased precipitation continued until the last week of September when they were replaced by hot, dry conditions. Many areas had average temperatures 10 – 12 degrees above normal, especially in the Willamette Valley. Portland recorded it's latest reading of 95 degrees or higher on September 27th.

UTAH YYY

The bees are in good condition. Some beekeepers are winterizing the bees, others are preparing the hives to travel to California. The rain received during the month was much appreciated as it brought on a crop of rabbit brush. The other main source of nectar for the month was alfalfa. This years crop was near average, which was surprising because of how dry the year had been.

WASHINGTON YYY

September debuted with hot days and continued dry weather which lasted until the 6th. More than 2-doxen daily-record highs were reported in parts of Eastern Washington, many times tipping the 100 degree mark. The 6th was also the last day of 61 consecutive days in Seattle with high temperatures of 70 degrees or greater. The previous record was only 49 days. The next two weeks were much cooler and rain was reported across the state

helping ease the drought conditions, especially in Western Washington. Summer returned to end the month as record temperatures ranged from 3 – 15 degrees above normal with Central Washington being the warmest.

The bees are in good condition as the warm days allowed for many cleansing flights during the month. They are still bringing in pollen from ornamental plants and wildflowers in the mountains. Some migratory beekeepers brought their bees home early from North and South Dakota and Montana because everything was drying up. A good crop of honey is being extracted from fireweed, blackberries and blueberries.

Sales of honey at farmers markets has been very good this year.

WISCONSIN YYY

Beekeepers were busy the first of the month wrapping up honey collection and treating activities. Migratory beekeepers moved their hives to overwintering yards. With warm temperatures, some bees were active collecting winter stores, however due to continued drought conditions, little was available. By mid-month, some scattered showers had moved into the state but most beekeepers felt the showers were too little too late. According to the national weather service the state moisture averages were 56% very short and 27% short. The worst drought conditions were mainly in the southeastern section.

Honey demand was reported good due to many local fall festivals. Prices were reported stable. Retail demand was also reported good.

U. S. EXPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, QUANTITY & VALUE

	J U L Y	2 0 0 3	Y E A R T O D A T E 2 0 0 3	
	QUANTITY	VALUE	QUANTITY	VALUE
	Kilograms	Dollars	Kilograms	Dollars
COMB HONEY & HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE				
Mexico	3,385	4,440	10,384	12,973
Panama	590	2,573	1,140	5,147
Cayman Islands	---	---	1,076	4,334
Northern Antilles	---	---	3,301	11,641
Aruba	---	---	1,138	5,990
United Kingdom	---	---	816	3,000
Netherlands	---	---	1,009	3,665
France	---	---	1,181	4,515
Germany	---	---	1,824	5,507
Israel	---	---	3,103	10,000
Kuwait	---	---	180,630	313,466
Saudi Arabia	10,103	28,153	202,672	314,875
Arab Emirates	---	---	115,170	151,070
Cambodia	1,143	6,185	1,143	6,185
Malaysia	---	---	7,385	9,686
Philippines	2,262	7,413	35,333	61,097
China	828	2,860	4,552	15,730
Korean Republic	---	---	113,668	149,100
Hong Kong	---	---	17,342	41,731
Taiwan	---	---	3,035	8,879
Japan	14,833	19,456	55,287	73,477
TOTAL	33,144	71,080	761,189	1,212,068
HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE				
Canada	37,813	84,595	352,424	729,448
Mexico	---	---	1,160	6,682
Costa Rica	---	---	2,994	11,484
Bermuda	---	---	1,654	7,128
Bahamas	---	---	4,869	18,439
Jamaica	---	---	2,268	8,799
Barbados	---	---	6,246	23,109
Aruba	---	---	3,030	11,812
Chile	---	---	1,723	8,966
Germany	---	---	21,037	48,098
Singapore	---	---	12,839	21,480
Indonesia	---	---	67,276	185,040
China	4,115	10,541	25,179	64,498
Korean Republic	1,769	6,357	14,525	36,556
Japan	---	---	15,876	45,619
Australia	---	---	10,880	28,000
TOTAL	43,697	101,493	541,780	1,246,546

EXPORTS continued

HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- FOREIGN MERCHANDISE			
Canada	1,764	4,056	24,813
Mexico	16,520	23,954	17,745
Costa Rica	---	---	18,600
Spain	---	---	186,002
Indonesia	---	---	37,200
China	---	---	20,196
TOTAL	18,284	28,010	304,556

U. S. IMPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY, QUANTITY AND VALUE

COUNTRY	J U L Y 2 0 0 3			YEAR TO DATE 2003		
	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars
NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE --- WHITE						
Canada	474,088	1,534,928	1,540,713	4,014,163	13,730,066	13,827,903
Mexico	22,376	64,876	65,506	546,669	1,648,076	1,683,490
Peru	---	---	---	3,480	5,220	5,506
Chile	37,780	106,803	109,398	1,986,913	5,195,624	5,357,554
Brazil	11,451	90,742	90,745	1,035,693	2,607,020	2,735,826
Uruguay	---	---	---	545,788	1,552,799	1,584,570
Argentina	390,566	958,960	1,003,161	3,427,693	8,634,582	8,985,770
United Kingdom	---	---	---	7,815	22,081	22,908
Germany	---	---	---	18,000	36,360	37,800
Czech Republic	---	---	---	31,070	82,236	86,636
Hungary	36,000	109,298	113,400	126,000	310,220	321,300
Russia	---	---	---	348	2,018	2,305
Ukraine	---	---	---	34,128	49,690	55,341
Spain	---	---	---	304	2,073	2,120
Romania	---	---	---	105,818	272,252	286,186
Turkey	---	---	---	55,627	117,291	122,632
India	500,061	1,251,806	1,325,732	1,165,961	2,694,185	2,852,407
Pakistan	19,000	27,550	30,491	153,301	219,169	239,466
Vietnam	148,480	336,678	348,368	319,880	701,883	735,425
China, Mainland	530,700	825,813	890,253	2,538,195	3,946,312	4,202,525
Australia	---	---	---	19,868	58,956	59,371
New Zealand	---	---	---	800	4,347	4,600
TOTAL	2,170,502	5,307,454	5,517,767	16,137,514	41,892,560	43,211,641

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE --- EXTRA LIGHT AMBER

Canada	---	---	---	150,769	502,685	511,184
Mexico	57,845	160,161	164,091	361,796	1,024,872	1,051,292
Chile	38,566	105,180	108,141	502,614	1,377,015	1,425,273
Brazil	191,828	454,005	471,754	520,428	1,191,308	1,243,660
Uruguay	98,680	240,911	243,505	819,731	2,304,602	2,352,363
Argentina	119,878	276,973	288,282	583,866	1,400,908	1,462,938
Austria	---	---	---	460	3,507	3,574

IMPORTS continued

Turkey	---	---	---	98,928	223,715	237,935
India	18,600	42,430	44,852	1,016,400	2,257,980	2,342,448
Pakistan	19,000	27,550	30,491	19,000	27,550	30,491
Vietnam	92,800	180,960	194,890	493,824	917,906	975,137
China	---	---	---	1,988,644	3,384,997	3,587,852
Australia	---	---	---	18,000	54,660	57,160
Egypt	59,400	117,018	124,039	237,808	441,697	467,353
TOTAL	696,597	1,605,188	1,670,045	6,812,268	15,113,402	15,748,660

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE --- LIGHT AMBER

Canada	38,139	125,282	125,682	116,194	378,702	382,537
Mexico	348,082	890,418	912,349	2,580,433	6,755,893	6,935,653
Dom. Republic	---	---	---	898	2,640	2,736
Peru	58,560	124,048	128,971	688,698	1,395,685	1,460,514
Chile	138,631	377,434	391,745	1,880,512	4,856,348	5,019,720
Brazil	417,699	948,678	999,110	2,460,979	5,838,326	6,115,433
Uruguay	337,474	805,842	833,323	3,489,023	9,519,404	9,791,618
Argentina	---	---	---	223,791	490,765	512,702
Denmark	---	---	---	12,096	51,710	55,560
France	---	---	---	1,040	4,420	4,634
Germany	16,125	42,866	44,858	133,956	439,227	512,310
Czech Republic	36,928	97,477	101,461	36,928	97,477	101,461
Switzerland	571	4,215	4,216	571	4,215	4,216
Latvia	---	---	---	1,260	2,134	2,364
Ukraine	17,999	41,494	43,739	240,822	535,002	564,882
Moldova	---	---	---	108,490	230,719	239,50
Italy	---	---	---	2,213	5,233	5,745
Romania	18,760	48,575	50,567	358,147	843,542	883,549
Bulgaria	37,700	88,595	95,095	415,030	922,877	988,694
Turkey	128,250	251,548	266,231	1,113,656	2,631,132	2,773,507
India	33,781	87,674	93,206	1,030,014	2,180,272	2,322,999
Pakistan	---	---	---	636	2,044	2,273
Burma	56,250	69,075	75,017	56,250	69,075	75,017
Thailand	115,459	280,467	294,837	441,625	1,072,214	1,118,340
Vietnam	685,470	1,434,880	1,517,667	5,096,600	10,590,376	11,219,301
Malaysia	504,400	982,270	1,066,694	1,982,100	3,210,830	3,534,866
China	908,006	1,342,687	1,473,441	5,039,359	7,608,766	8,192,555
New Zealand	708	10,018	10,703	81,278	252,353	261,018
Egypt	4,220	2,950	3,296	4,220	2,950	3,296
Burkina	---	---	---	19,095	38,190	41,356
TOTAL	3,903,812	8,056,493	8,532,208	27,615,914	60,032,521	63,128,360

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED

Canada	---	---	---	95,934	221,533	225,753
Mexico	113,190	373,066	375,466	1,740,549	4,681,490	4,712,590
Dom. Republic	14,237	25,237	26,233	182,818	167,127	182,562
Peru	---	---	---	2,320	3,480	3,670
Chile	---	---	---	95,356	250,604	259,248
Brazil	76,560	180,412	186,982	451,460	1,063,179	1,107,469
Uruguay	59,381	161,504	165,355	117,783	310,077	318,038

IMPORTS continued

Argentina	---	---	---	11,958	36,939	38,645
Netherlands	75,199	336,587	337,031	75,199	336,587	337,031
France	---	---	---	1,112	7,256	8,240
Austria	---	---	---	6,963	42,656	48,389
Switzerland	10,663	75,305	78,589	19,100	135,527	141,087
Russia	3,585	16,217	17,769	3,585	16,217	17,769
Ukraine	---	---	---	5,046	8,075	9,140
Spain	---	---	---	6,283	20,895	22,395
Portugal	4,860	6,846	7,248	4,860	6,846	7,248
Italy	---	---	---	5,119	14,489	15,906
Greece	365	2,659	2,757	758	5,339	5,610
India	37,200	89,280	104,280	241,800	554,342	654,275
Vietnam	---	---	---	150,060	257,012	274,770
Hong Kong	---	---	---	5,400	23,364	23,971
Taiwan	3,163	5,578	5,723	29,275	40,515	43,905
Australia	---	---	---	9,969	41,623	44,204
TOTAL	418,059	1,308,661	1,345,403	3,291,723	8,324,655	8,584,473

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
FOREIGN TRADE DIVISION